UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26674
31 October 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter by H.E. Mr. Hassan A. Hassanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, as received by facsimile.

I would highly appreciate it if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 29 October 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

The perfidious violation of the cease-fire agreement by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia impels me to address myself to you. In the morning of 23 October 1993, in gross violation of the agreement, armed forces of the Republic of Armenia went onto the attack in the Djebrail, Fizuli, Zangelan and Kubatly regions of Azerbaijan and, after occupying more than 30 settlements, advanced on a 70-kilometre front to the State border between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Zangelan region, with a population of 60,000, is surrounded; accordingly women, old people and children fleeing from the occupying forces are attempting to use the only way to safety, that of swimming across the Arax River into Iran. The number of people who have crossed into the Islamic Republic of Iran is as yet uncertain; however, more than 13,000 refugees have returned to Azerbaijan through the Imishly district. This district is already overcrowded with persons resettled from already captured neighbouring territories. According to preliminary data, about 11,000 people - elderly people, women and children - have drowned in the Arax River. The number of persons missing without trace is estimated in the thousands.

Significantly, all of this took place during the visit by Mrs. Margaretha af Ugglas, the Chairman-in-office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, to the trans-Caucasian States. Under the terms of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993), it is precisely CSCE - that authoritative international organization - which is assigned responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the resolutions in question.

The crimes of the Armenian militarists cannot be regarded as anything other than a challenge to the United Nations and to the world community.

In view of the onset of cold weather and winter, and also of the grievous situation of the extremely large number of refugees and resettled persons concentrated in the south-west part of Azerbaijan, who are on the verge of dying en masse, I earnestly beg you to use all possibilities available to the United Nations to take urgent measures to ensure an immediate halt to the aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan, and also to extend emergency assistance to the new wave of refugees.

H. HASSANOV
Minister